

Cartoons of the Gilded Age

Individual Computer Research

To continue our study of the Gilded Age, today you will inspect a series of political cartoons to choose one that you find particularly interesting. Our history class wiki page includes links to several websites that all feature political cartoons from the 1800s. In class, use your laptops and the Internet links to complete the four steps below:

Step 1:

1. Go to the history class wiki page. Browse through the political cartoons on the websites linked in the “8th Grade” section. Look at some cartoons about industry, some about monopolies, and some by Thomas Nast and other artists of the Gilded Age. Be sure to examine at least ten cartoons before choosing one.
2. **Select one cartoon that you find particularly interesting.** Go on to Step 2.

Step 2:

1. Copy your chosen cartoon and paste it into a Microsoft Word document. If necessary, reduce the size of the image so it fits neatly on the page. Go on to Step 3.

Step 3:

Using your chosen cartoon, answer these questions. Type your answers in Word underneath the cartoon. Be sure to put your name and date at the top of the page.

1. What is the title of the cartoon?
2. Who is the artist?
3. Where was the cartoon first published?
4. Describe in two or three sentences what is being pictured in this cartoon.
5. Summarize what you think is the cartoonist’s opinion. What makes you think so?
6. Why did you choose this cartoon?
7. What is the bibliography information for this website? (title, author, URL, date, etc. – see the Buckley style manual on the wiki page to remember the format)
8. Thinking question: Pretend that you are a teacher. **Think of two questions about the political cartoon** that you would ask someone else to teach them about the Gilded Age. On your paper, type the two questions. Your questions should lead another student to think more deeply about the cartoon. One question should be about history, and the other should be about the theme of change that we are studying (change in society, in business, in wealth, in cities, etc.)

Example:

1. What does this cartoon say about the living conditions of the urban poor?
2. What changes were taking place in big cities at the end of the 1800s that allowed these conditions to exist?

Step 4:

1. Print your Word document to the classroom printer, “Penny Lane.” Allow yourself enough time to print, and make sure that it prints before leaving class. If you cannot print the document, email it to Mr. Hall at mhall@buckleycountryday.com.